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THE FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall, on Monday evening, 12th June, 1886.

The president, the Rev. J. J. Halley, occupied the chair, and about sixty members and visitors were present.

Baron von Mueller, K.C.M.G., M. and Ph.D., F.R.S., wrote thanking the Club for his election as Patron.

The hon. librarian reported the receipt of the following donations to the library:—

“Remarks on the new Australian beetle, *Phalacrognathus Muelleri*,” with coloured plate, by Mr. P. Dattari, from the author; “Select Extra-tropical Plants” Mueller, from the premier; “The President's Address to the Royal Society of New South Wales,” May 1886, from the author; “Journal of Pharmacy,” Vol. I., No. 6, from the Society; and “Journal of the New York Microscopical Society,” Vol. II., No. 3, from the Society.

The hon. secretary reported that the monthly excursion on Saturday, June 19th, was well attended considering the threatening weather, and time of year. The members journeyed to Cheltenham, where they divided into two sections, one under the leadership of Mr. C. French, F.L.S., proceeding across the heath towards the Black Rock in search of botanical specimens, the other, under Mr. S. H. Wintle, F.L.S., proceeding to the cliffs bent on palæontological research. Mr. French reported that the very dry season had materially affected the growth of the various native plants, parts known as swamps for thirty years were found perfectly dry. *Acacia suaveolens* was found in flower. Small specimens not yet in flower of *Hovea heterophylla*, *Gompholobium Huegelii*,

were obtained, and further on plants of *Schizæa dichotoma*, and *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, etc., were noted. A few of the commoner fungi of the genera *Agaricus*, *Geaster*, *Polyporus*, and several lichens (*Cladonias*, and *Parmelias*), were collected. A few beetles belonging to the *Carabidæ*, and *Curculionidæ* were taken. Mr. Wintle read an interesting account of the doings of the geological section. He stated that his principal object in visiting the locality was to obtain a photograph of the fossil cliff which would show its structure and height. For the latter purpose a couple of the party helped him by taking up suitable positions against the cliff, so that in the view a comparison could be drawn between the different heights. After carrying out his desire, some little time was spent in search along the beach for specimens, and among the results may be mentioned pieces of the fossil bone of the sperm whale (*Physeter*), fossil echinoderms (*Lovenia Forbesii*), sponges (*Halichondria resillis*), and Algæ (*Hormosirus Billardieri*, *Cystophora*, etc.) The united party reached town about six o'clock.

The following were elected members of the Club:—Mrs. Flatow, Master H. Grover, Mr. Jno. T. Haden, Mr. J. O. Moody, Miss Moody, Miss H. Moody, Master C. Moody, and Mr. G. Sweet.

Papers read:—1. By Mr. S. H. Wintle, F.L.S., entitled "The Fossil Mammalian Remains of Tasmania," Part II. The author pointed out the unaccountable absence not only of remains of many extinct Marsupialia common to the Australian mainland, but also of several recent forms of life, which abound in Victoria, among which may be specified the native bear, the flying fox, the tortoise, and members of the Python family. Regarding the extinction of the *Thylacinus* (Tasmanian Tiger), and *Sarcophilus* (Tasmanian Devil) on the mainland, he gave it as his opinion that this was due to the existence of the wild-dog, *Canis dingo*, which had exterminated them, and had never as far as known existed in Tasmania. This break in the chain of animal life, he contended was all the more singular, on account of the island of Tasmania having so recently formed a part of this continent.

The paper was very attentively listened to, and gave rise to some little discussion.

2. By Mr. T. A. Forbes-Leith, entitled "Notes on the Salmonidæ or Salmon Family." The writer gave a general view of the different members of this great family of fishes, and related his experiences when endeavouring to obtain a glimpse of a so-called Tasmanian salmon, when on view in Melbourne; and stated that he coincided in opinion with Mr. W. Saville Kent, Inspector of Tasmanian fisheries, that the true salmon had not yet been introduced into Tasmanian waters.

The following were the principal exhibits:—By Mr. F. G. A. Barnard, a fine specimen of the spectre insect (*Phasmidæ*),